

Becoming a Congregational Member

If you would like your congregation to become a member of the Racine Interfaith Coalition, please contact us to set up a meeting.

Local congregations benefit in many ways through participation in the interfaith community organizing work of the Racine Interfaith Coalition.

Community Building

The practices of community organizing create a culture of intentional relationship building.

The deep relationships that foster true community do not happen automatically in 21st century America. In our culture a variety of forces work against the formation of community. But a commitment to the regular practice of one-on-one, face-to-face meetings with members of the congregation, neighbors, and community leaders can build community and strengthen relationships throughout the congregation. People who for years have only seen each other in passing suddenly learn to know each other. Members discover each other's gifts and what motivates each of them to action. Together they find new ways to share their gifts and work together.

Leadership Training

The on-going need to develop new leaders is a challenge for most congregations. The Racine Interfaith Coalition offers a variety of leadership training opportunities for its members, ranging from half-day local programs to the Gamaliel Foundation's National Leadership Training week.

Both new and experienced leaders have the opportunity to develop skills in relationship-building, organizing people, running effective meetings, fundraising, defining an issue and taking effective action for change. A central goal in all of the training is to help leaders develop clarity about their own vision and goals.

Lived Faith in the Public Arena

In each of our varied faith traditions a transformative faith turns us in love toward our neighbors. Our faith stories call us actively to engage the world around us, seeking justice and working for the good of all God's people and the whole creation. Through relationship with one another in an interfaith coalition each of our congregations has a rich opportunity to fulfill its mission beyond its own walls. By learning to recognize the image of God in the face of the other, we learn to build trust and respect across the boundaries of religion, race, culture and politics. And by acting faithfully in relation to one another and all our neighbors we put our faith values into action, inviting new ways of thinking and acting throughout our community.

Congregational Commitments

1. Leadership

Congregations commit to provide leadership in the Racine Interfaith Coalition in the following ways:

- by sending a representative to serve on the RIC Board of Directors
- by designating a religious leader from the congregation to serve with the Ministry Leaders' Caucus
- by appointing a chairperson and developing a *Core Team* to engage members in the congregation's mission and the Racine Interfaith Coalition's shared work for justice.

Participation

The leaders from the congregation who serve on the RIC Board of Directors, the Ministry Leaders' Caucus and the congregation's core team are responsible for communicating to the congregation about RIC's activities and inviting their participation in a variety of opportunities, including:

- leadership training events
- one-on-one relationship-building campaigns
- issue task force meetings and actions
- periodic major events (such as the annual Public Meeting) which call for
- significant turnout from all of our member congregations.

Financial Support

To do our work well we depend on financial support from our member congregations, as well as from individuals and grant funders. The level of congregational financial support varies, based on the size of a congregation and its financial strength.